

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Application Number	09/883,502	Confirmation No.:	8691
Applicant	Jeffrey A. Bedell <i>et al.</i>		
Filed	June 19, 2001		
Title	REPORT SYSTEM AND METHOD USING PROMPT OBJECTS		
TC/Art Unit	2178		
Examiner:	Cong-Lac Huynh		
Docket No.	53470.003037		
Customer No.	<b>21967</b>		

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**REPLY BRIEF**

## **REPLY BRIEF**

In response to the Examiner's Answer mailed July 8, 2009, in connection with the above-captioned patent application. Appellant presents this reply brief to clarify points raised by the Examiner in the Examiner's Answer.

**I. Status Of Claims**

Claims 1-28 are currently pending in the above-captioned patent application.

Claims 1-28 were finally rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being allegedly anticipated by U.S. Publication No. 2002/0069207 to Alexander et al. ("Alexander").

The final rejection of claims 1-28 is hereby appealed.

**II. Grounds Of Rejection To Be Reviewed On Appeal**

The following ground of rejection is to be reviewed on appeal:

Claims 1-28 remain rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being allegedly anticipated by U.S. Publication No. 2002/0069207 to Alexander et al. ("Alexander").

### III. Argument

This Appellant's Reply Brief is responsive to the Examiner's Answer mailed July 8, 2009, in connection with the above-captioned patent application. Appellant presents this reply brief to clarify points and answer new arguments raised by the Examiner in the Examiner's Answer

In the Examiner's Answer, the Examiner repeats the rejection of all pending claims based on the cited reference (e.g., Alexander). Appellant hereby clarifies its rebuttal to the rejection and answers to the new arguments raised by the Examiner. Specifically, Alexander fails to teach each and every claim limitation of claim 1.

(i) In regards to claim 1, the Examiner's Answer continues to improperly allege that the Alexander teaches "at least one validation property," as recited in claim 1. In particular, the Examiner's Answer alleges that since each type of survey has a different set of questions and answers and each answer is assigned a specific value, it is clear that the answer values are the information to ensure that the answers are valid to the questions in each survey of different types. *See, e.g.,* Examiner's Answer, page 7. Appellant respectfully disagrees. Appellant respectfully submits that Alexander discloses that the survey manager clicks on the questions number, types in the desired questions, identifies whether the question has more than one answer and then selects the answer from the available choices. Each answer may be assigned as value as well. *See, e.g.,* Alexander, paragraph [0029]. In addition, Alexander discloses that in setting up the survey, the survey manager may assign a value to each suggested answer. The survey, as taken, may then be assigned a score based upon the value or values corresponding to the response or responses given by the user (emphasis added). *See, e.g.,* Alexander, paragraph [0031]. Therefore, Appellant respectfully submits that the answer values assigned to different answers of

a survey question are used to assign a score for each survey and not to ensure that the answers are valid to the questions in each survey of different types, as alleged by the Examiner. Thus, Appellant respectfully submits that Alexander fails to disclose, or even suggest, a prompt object comprises: “at least one validation property,” as recited in claim 1.

The Examiner also alleges that the answer values, as taught by Alexander, are equivalent to the validation values as disclosed in the specification of the present application (e.g., page 3, lines 5-9 and page 14, lines 18-21). Appellant respectfully disagrees. In particular, Appellant respectfully submits that the value, discloses on page 14, lines 18-21 of the present application, is directed to a default value of each prompt used when the report is executed offline (e.g., through the use of the scheduler) and not “at least one validation property,” as recited in claim 1. *See, e.g.,* Specification, page 14, line 15-17. In contrast, the present application provides in an exemplary embodiment that a prompt object asks a user to “choose a city” with a validation property saying that it is valid only if the city is located in a “choose a state” prompt object. That could be extended again to say that the answer to the “choose a state” prompt object imposes validation to a “choose a region” prompt object, etc. *See, e.g.,* Specification, page 36, lines 3-6. In another exemplary embodiment of the present application, the specification discloses that there are several properties available to valid the answer of a prompt. First, there is the property minimum (VARIANT), which is preferably the same type as Maximum (or Empty), and may be specified such that it is never bigger than Maximum. Second, there is the property Maximum (VARIANT), which is preferably the same type as Minimum (or Empty), and is never smaller than Minimum. Third, there is an entity restriction (VARIANT) that puts a restriction on the available answers. It is typically a filter, a search object or an expression type. Lastly, there is an object origin (VARIANT), that acts as a starting point for finding objects that satisfy the

prompt. *See, e.g.*, Specification, page 46, lines 6-17. Therefore, Appellant respectfully submits that the Examiner erroneously interpreted that the answer values of Alexander are equivalent to the “at least one validation property,” as recited in claim 1

(ii) Also, Appellant respectfully submits that Alexander fails to disclose that “the report may specify a prompt object as a property of the report,” as recited in claim 1 (emphasis added). In fact, Alexander merely discloses that the survey is executed by allowing a user to answer each question in the survey. Once the user has answered each question, controlling software 14 can generate reports, including those that analyze the user’s response. *See, e.g.*, Alexander, paragraph [0024]. Also, Alexander discloses that upon completion of the survey, reports can be generated to indicate the results of the survey. Survey results can be generated in numerous formats depending upon the desired information to be gleaned from the survey. For example, the fully formatted report include a verbatim copy of the completed survey while a brief formatted report lists only user name, title of survey and score. *See, e.g.*, Alexander, paragraph [0040]. Therefore, Appellant respectfully submits that Alexander, at best, discloses generating reports of the surveys and fails to disclose that “the report may specify a prompt object as a property of the report,” as recited in claim 1.

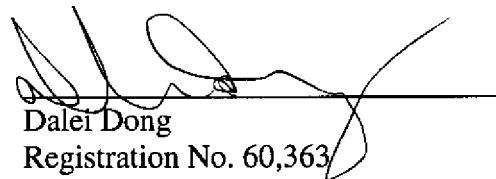
For at least the above reasons Appellant respectfully requests that the anticipation rejection of claims 1-28 be withdrawn.

#### IV. Conclusion

Appellant respectfully submits that the pending claims are allowable over the cited references. Accordingly, Appellants respectfully request that the Board reverse the prior art rejections set forth in the Action. Appellants respectfully submit that no other fees are required in connection with this request. However, in the event it is determined that a further fee is necessary to maintain the pendency of this application, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge or credit the undersigned's deposit account number 50-0206.

Respectfully submitted,

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